Message Text

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E.O. 11652: N/A TAGS: PBOR, AR, CI

SUBJECT: ARGENTINE-CHILEAN COMMISSION ISSUES REPORT

ON BEAGLE CHANNEL DISCUSSIONS

REF: BUENOS AIRES 2100 AND PREVIOUS

- 1. IN A SIMPLE CEREMONY AT THE CHILEAN EMBASSY APRIL 6, ARGENTINE AIR FORCE BRIGADIER PABLO APELLA AND CHILEAN ARMY GENERAL JOAQUIN RAMIREZ SIGNED A JOINT REPORT TO THEIR RESPECTIVE GOVERNMENTS MARKING THE COMPLETION OF WORK OF "MIXED COMMISSION NO. 1", WHICH OVER THE PAST 45 DAYS DISCUSSED SECONDARY ASPECTS RELATED TO THE CHILEAN/ARGENTINE MARITIME DISPUTE IN THE SOUTH ATLANTIC AND OTHER BORDER PROBLEMS IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE EARLIER AGREEMENT SIGNED BY PRESIDENTS VIDELA AND PINOCHET AT PUERTO MONTT. A JOINT COMMUNIQUE WAS ALSO READ TO THE PRESS AT THE SAME CEREMONY.
- 2. ACCORDING TO THE PRESS COMMUNIQUE, THE COMMISSION CONSIDERED BORDER PROBLEMS, INCLUDING NAVIGATION, RESCUE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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AT-SEA OPERATIONS, VEHICULAR TRAFFIC AND "QUESTIONS RELATING TO THE (LIMITATION OF) ARMED FORCES ON THE FRONTIER," CONCLUDING THAT A SYSTEM OF CONSULTATION SHOULD BE DEVELOPED TO AVOID ANY INCIDENTS WHICH COULD ADVERSELY AFFECT BILATERAL RELATIONS. QUESTIONS RELATING TO MINERAL EXPLOITATION AND INCREASED TRADE AND UNDERSTANDING

REPORTEDLY WERE ALSO CONSIDERED.

- 3. THE CONTENT OF THE COMMITTEE'S FULL REPORT WAS NOT REVEALED TO THE PRESS. ACCORDING TO THE AGREEMENT OF PUERTO MONTT, A SECOND MIXED COMMISSION WILL BE FORMED ONCE THE TWO GOVERNMENTS APPROVE COMMITEE NO. 1'S REPORT. COMMITTEE NO. 2 IS SUPPOSED TO DEAL WITH THE MAJOR QUESTIONS INVOLVED IN THE BEAGLE CHANNEL DISPUTE DURING A 180-DAY PERIOD.
- 4. COMMENT. DESPITE THE EFFUSIVE "ABRAZOS" WHICH MARKED THE SIGNING CEREMONY AND THE FAVORABLE PRESS PLAY IN THE BUENOS AIRES MEDIA, ARGENTINE NAVAL SOURCES TELL US THAT NOT MUCH WAS ACCOMPLISHED BY COMMITTEE NO. 1 OTHER THAN ACCOMPLISHING A "COOLING OFF" PERIOD.

 ACCORDING TO THESE SOURCES, THE MAJOR ISSUES ARE STILL IN DISPUTE, BUT THEY REASSURED US GOA WILL PURSUE ALL MEANS AVAILABLE TO ACHIEVE A PEACEFUL SETTLEMENT. OUR IMPRESSION IS THAT NEGOTIATIONS MAY DRAG ON FOR YEAR. CASTRO

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